

Comment on the **Riparian Corridors** section of “**Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**”

I live not far from the Los Gatos Creek as it passes between Lincoln Avenue and I-280. I have the impression that one of the greatest sources of pollution in the riparian corridor along this stretch of the waterway is trash from the homeless who seek shelter along the banks of the creek. (This impression is derived in large part from my participation in yearly creek clean-up efforts, and is reinforced by my observations in using the Creek Trail.)

I therefore think it is a serious oversight that the policies R1.1-R1.7 do not address this issue.

I recognize that the problem raised by the homeless will not be resolved within the Envision 2040 process, but I think that policies can be included which will alleviate the effects of homeless using riparian corridors for shelter. I believe that trash accumulates in homeless encampments because the people staying there have no practical alternatives to dispose of their trash.

I would therefore suggest that a new policy be considered that would require placing adequate trash receptacles at strategic locations along the corridor, and emptying them periodically.

Comment on the **Natural Communities and Wildlife Habitat** section of “**Proposed General Plan Update Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions**”

Action NR-7.8 says, “*Work with landowners, landscapers, nurseries, and the multi-agency Santa Clara County Weed Management Area to remove and prevent the spread of highly invasive and noxious weeds.*”

Removing these noxious non-native weeds is a very labor intensive process, and one where volunteers may be able to play a significant role. Perhaps the action should be modified to include a provision to additionally support supervised clean-up work by volunteers. (As an aside, I don’t know whether it is possible to also use the not-so voluntary labor of citizens working off traffic violations, as is currently done in freeway trash clean-ups, but this is another source of help that may be worthwhile exploring.)

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